

SEPTEMBER 1934

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD

"LOP-SIDED NOVELS"

By BOB SMELTZER

Anyone having a comparatively large collection of novels will have among them, some "lop-sided" novels. By this I mean those which have the pages drifted to the right for perhaps the first half, and the pages of the last half drifted to the left hand edge. Look at the front cover page of such a novel; over at the left hand edge you will see that the edge is not even as in a newly bought novel, but protruding more or less to the left.

Now here is my way of correcting this defect. First, I open up the novel at the middle; lay it flat on a hard surface; place a piece of cardboard on the middle and apply hand pressure to it to start to get rid of that bulge. I then bend the novel in half, showing page 16 on top and work again on that bulge by stiffening the novel up at its direct center. I then open up between pages 24 and 25 (and I am, of course, now speaking of 32 page novels) and dipping my fingers into a bowl of clean water, I moisten (do not make too wet) the inner edges; I turn to pages 28 and 29 and do the same; same with page 32 and inside edge of back cover. I wait a few minutes, then I open the novel in the middle; lay it flat on the board, with cover picture and the back cover facing me and I again place the card-board strip on and again knead and press the bulge out. By this time it is all gone, so I take up the novel and with my fingers it's an easy matter to put

that unruly left-hand edge into shape, just the same as it was originally; in direct alignment with the staples.

Now all this may sound long-strung out and laborious, but it is not after you have worked on a half dozen novels. I can "do" a novel in about five minutes, and what a happy feeling, considering the previous and final shape of the novel.

I like to care for my novels for they are something near and dear to my heart.

Now, FINALLY, to make a perfect job, I place the novels I have straightened out, on the floor of my basement; it does not matter whether there is only one or twentyfive. Placing a board on top and a Belgian block (actually a heavy paving stone weighing about 15 pounds) on top of that, I depart. Next morning I come down and oh see what a wonderful greeting they give me; they just seem to jump up and thank me for helping them to once again be "good" novels.

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JUST LIKE FINDING A REAL TREASURE.

A roundup of one day for Mr. McIntyre of Philadelphia, and fellow member of the Brotherhood, ran across some real treasure not so very long ago.

Here's what he found: One complete set of Tousey's Wide Awake Library from No.1 to 1300, in 32 Vols.--A nice run of Tousey's NY Detective Library from No.1 to about 700, in 25 Vols.--Also 3 Vols. of Old King Brady and the James Boys..Three Vols. of Young Sleuth Libraries--Four Vols. of Old Sleuth Library starting at No.1, up--Ten Vols. of the Boys Star Library (Jack Wrights)--and twentyseven Vols. of Pluck and Lucks. The Wide Awakes are bound in bluish cloth, and reddish cloth for the NY Detective Libraries. All are in splendid shape. They look as if the original

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owner never read them. Any member desiring any information on the items, I am sure that Mr. McIntyre will be very glad to enlighten. (Note: I have a copy of Old Sleuth Library No. 20, where it says 10¢ and the picture has five sports sitting around a table, all smoking cigars, whereas No. 20, in the Bound Vols. says 5¢ and is a lot different.)

(This item sent in by Charles H. Austin)

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BOYS.

There is the formation of a Tip Top Club in the wind inviting anyone reading this item to write to Mr. M. E. Marsh, 205 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Court St., Ithaca, N. Y. and H. H. B. member No. 58, sending him your lists of your Tip Top wants, and duplicates. In order to be eligible to be a member of the club, the member must be interested in completing his or her file of Tip Tops with a view to helping each other complete their file. Of course the members should be willing to aid the Tip Top Club members to complete other files they are interested in, but they must also be interested in Tip Tops in order to join.

It would be fine for all who are interested enough, to write to Mr. Marsh and to include one or two good rules to abide by, and if you will do this, Mr. Marsh can select the best rules sent in for the regulations, and have it ready to print in the next issue of the Dime Novel Round-up. The Round-up will be the Official Organ of the Tip Top Club, as well as H. H. B. We also invite Tip Top specialists to write Mr. Marsh, if they are interested in our Club. We invite all members interested to furnish Mr. Marsh with a list of their wants, also a list of their offers of Tip Tops only, to begin with. Later we can branch out into other issues, only for the benefit of our members.

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When Mr.Marsh gets these lists he will make copies of them and see that every member gets a complete set of lists. Inasmuch as there will be no dues in this club, it will be necessary for the members to supply the necessary postage, but Mr.Marsh will do the work and furnish the materials; or,better still, why not enclose 10¢ for initial postage,boys? I am in favor of this club,aren't you boys?

--Reckless Ralph Cummings.

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Courtesy of

HOBBIES Mag.--Jan.1934--Sent in by Bob Smeltzer.

One of the curios exhibited by Ye Old Yoke Antique Shop at a Hobby Show, was a cane made by Frank James,brother of Jesse James. He carved it while serving a prison sentence, and it is supposed that the figures thereon represent his escape and flight from prison.

It is also interesting to note that after the shooting of Jesse James by Bob Ford, there were exhibited in saloons and stores throughout Missouri, any amount of shoes, said to have been cut from the dead feet of the outlaw,as souvenirs; going so far as to exhibit blood-soaked bandages supposed to be the authentic bandage used in an attempt to staunch the flow of the famous bandit's ebbing blood stream.

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Daniel Bolster, Official Newspaper Reporter for The Worcester Spy,1884, of the Blackstone Valley, lived in Millbury,Mass.

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NOTE: This is a reprint of the original issue which also contained "TO FRANK TOUSEY" Courtesy of MISSOURI Magazine; a poem by James Whitcomb Riley (sent in by C.Young.), and numerous ads.

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